

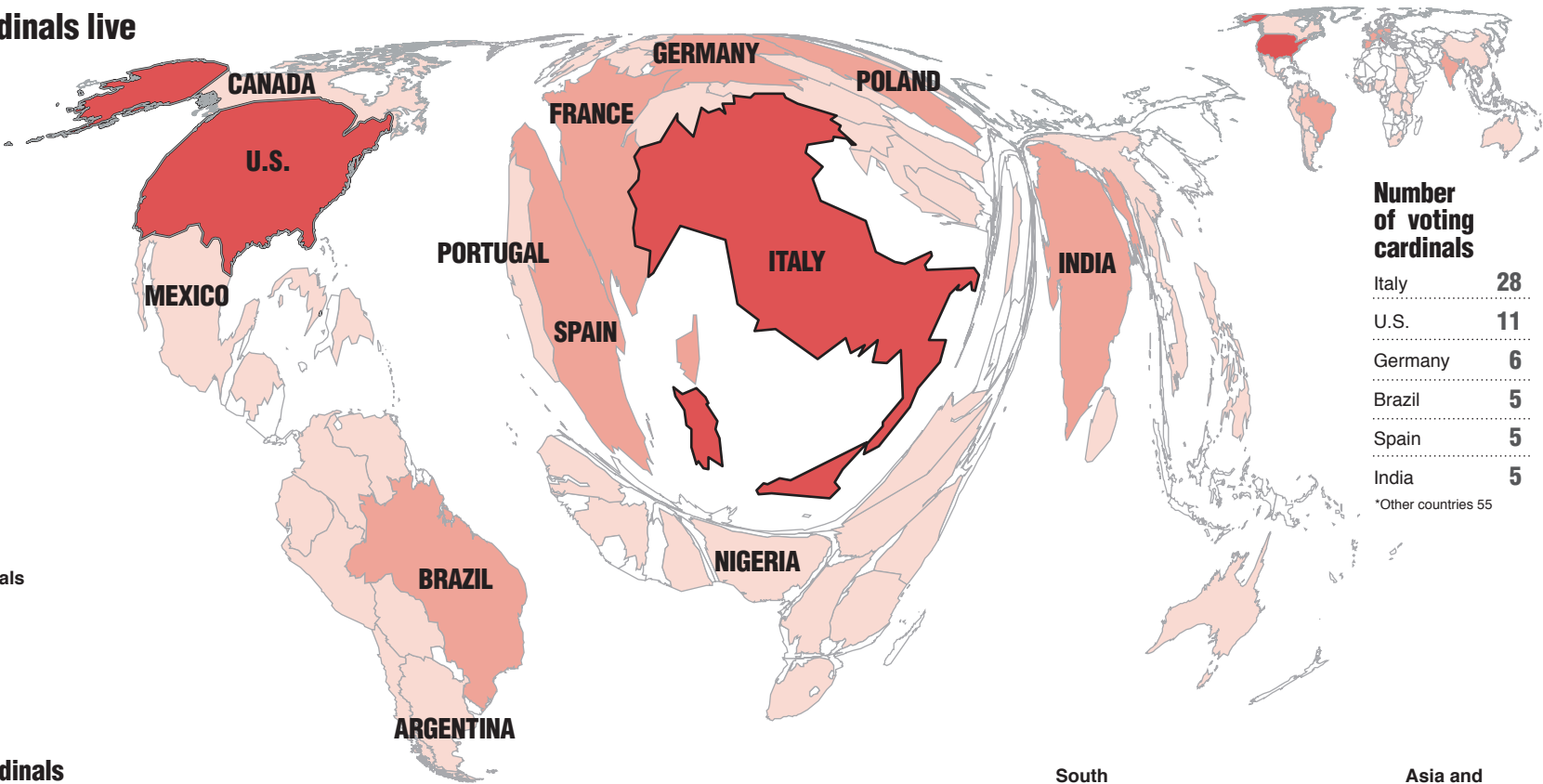
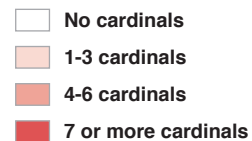
Shape of the church

Two views of the Catholic world as cardinals get closer to choosing a new pope

Selecting the next pope is in the hands of 115 cardinals from 48 countries as they gather at the Vatican for the secret voting process. There are 207 total cardinals, but only those younger than 80 years old get to vote. Those cardinals, nearly half European, do not reflect where the world's Catholics live. The Chicago Tribune took the 2010 Catholic population for each country and calculated how the 115 voting cardinals would be dispersed if they reflected that population. In the first map, each country is scaled in proportion to the college of cardinals. The more Cardinals in each nation, the larger it is. The second map applies the same technique based on the population of Catholics. More Catholics means a larger nation. Most Cardinals come from European nations leaving Catholics in the Americas and Africa underrepresented. Could this influence who the cardinals choose to be the next pope?

Where the cardinals live

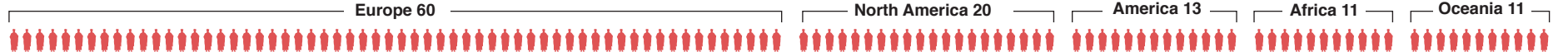
The majority of voting cardinals are European, with nearly half of those being Italian; scaling a world map by the number of cardinals from each country shows that Italy is the clear center of the papal conclave; China's and Russia's large landmasses almost disappear because Russia has no cardinals and China has one



Number of voting cardinals

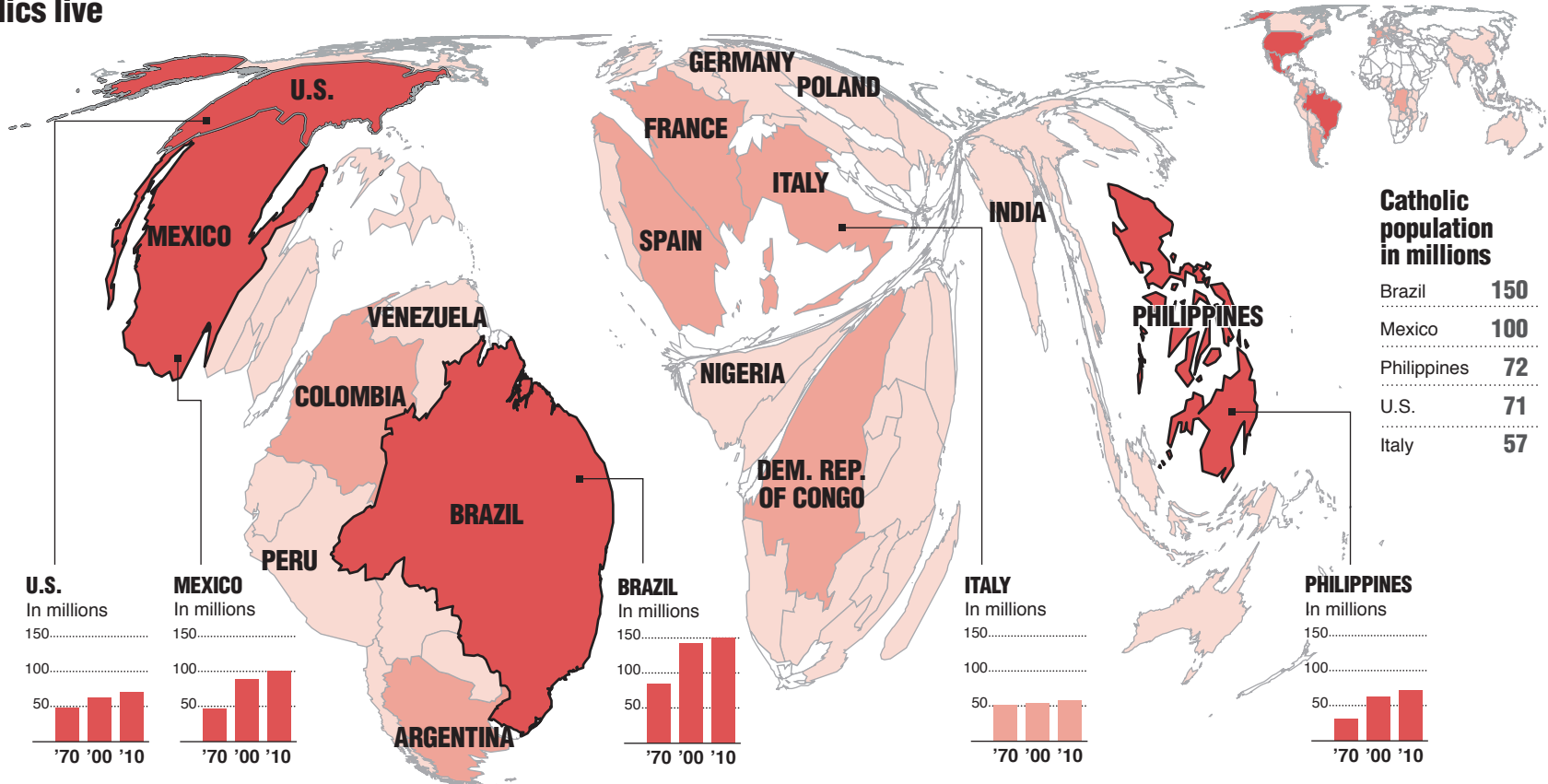
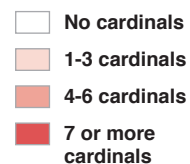
Italy	28
U.S.	11
Germany	6
Brazil	5
Spain	5
India	5
*Other countries 55	

Current voting cardinals



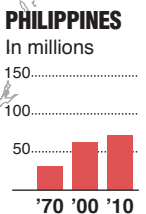
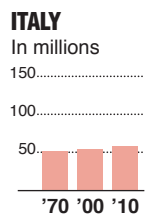
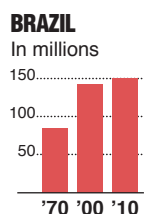
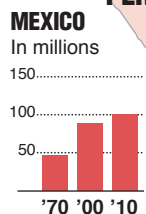
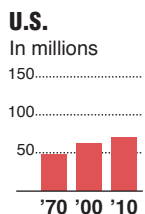
Where Catholics live

Scaling a world map and assigning cardinals by the number of Catholics in each country shows that South America would have the most voting cardinals, with nearly half of South American cardinals hailing from Brazil; more than one-third of the world's Catholics live in either Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines or the U.S.



Catholic population in millions

Brazil	150
Mexico	100
Philippines	72
U.S.	71
Italy	57



Hypothetical voting cardinals based on Catholic population



Selecting a new pope

The election of a pope is a centuries-old process that was last updated in 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI. Since 1271, the church's highest-ranking clerics, the cardinals, have voted in a conclave, which was instituted as the result of one of the longest papal vacancies in history — two years and nine months.

Cardinals' lodging

Cardinals probably will be bused to and from the chapel to limit exposure to outside influences; they may not communicate with anyone not involved in the election or be exposed to mass media

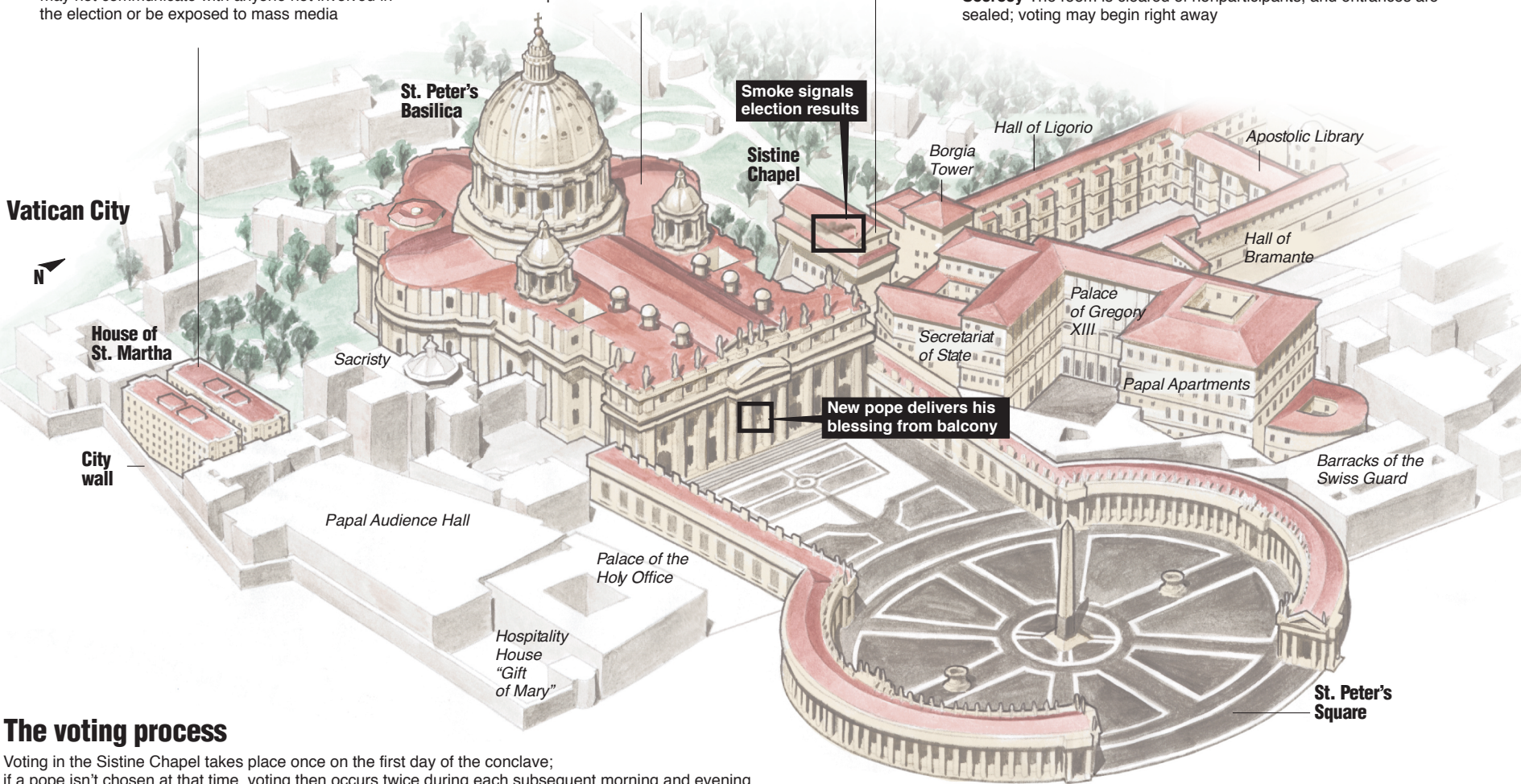
Morning of prayer

On the conclave's first day, the cardinals assemble for Mass in the morning and walk in a procession to the Sistine Chapel in the afternoon

Conclave begins

As a group, the cardinals swear an oath of secrecy; each then places his hands on the Gospels and adds a personal promise

Secrecy The room is cleared of nonparticipants, and entrances are sealed; voting may begin right away



The voting process

Voting in the Sistine Chapel takes place once on the first day of the conclave; if a pope isn't chosen at that time, voting then occurs twice during each subsequent morning and evening

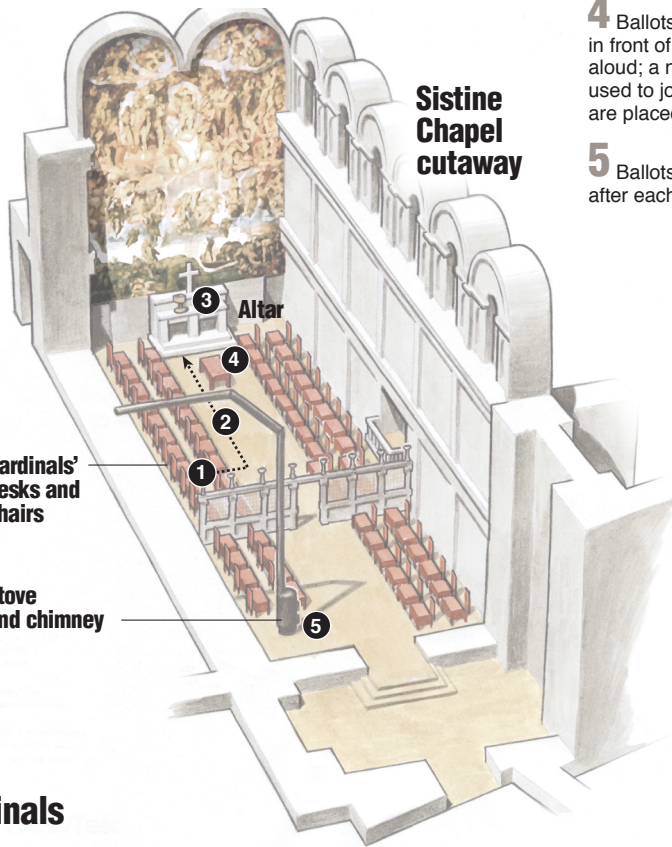
1 Disguising his handwriting, each cardinal writes his choice on the ballot and folds it twice

2 Each holds his ballot so it can be seen and walks to the altar

3 Ballot is placed on a golden plate, then slid into a receptacle, traditionally a chalice; receptacle is shaken to mix the ballots, which are then transferred to an urn



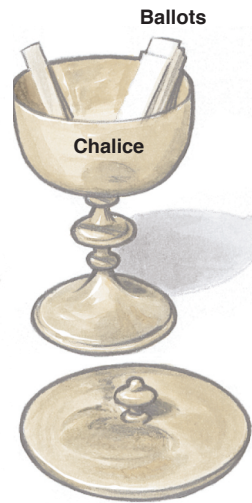
Ballot



Sistine Chapel cutaway

4 Ballots are counted at a table in front of the altar. Names are read aloud; a needle and thread are used to join the ballots, and they are placed aside; votes are totaled

5 Ballots are burned in stove after each vote



Ballots

Chalice

Voting results

• A pope is elected when he obtains a two-thirds majority — a change established by Pope Benedict in 2007; if cardinals are deadlocked after 13 days, they pause for a day of prayer and reflection, then move on to runoff ballots between two leading candidates; election continues until a two-thirds majority is reached

• When ballots are burned, black smoke indicates no decision has been made, and white smoke signifies a new pope



No decision



New pope

The new pope

Within hours of his election, the new pope:

- Chooses the name by which he will be known
- Goes to a small red room near the chapel; he is dressed in the papal vestments, white skull cap and soutane, which have been prepared in various sizes
- Proceeds to the main balcony of the Vatican, where the senior cardinal deacon declares, "Habemus papam!" (We have a pope); pope delivers his first papal blessing

The College of Cardinals

Only cardinals under the age of 80 may vote for a new pope; more than half of the 117 eligible cardinals were appointed by Pope Benedict XVI; the rest were appointed by Pope John Paul II*

Cardinal electors, by region of origin

Only cardinals who are attending are shown

Europe 60



Latin America 19



North America 14



Africa 11



Asia 10



Oceania 1



U.S. 11

*Two of the 117 eligible cardinals are not attending

Who can be pope?

In theory, any Catholic man in good standing may be elected — he need not be a cardinal or other member of the clergy; the last non-cardinal to ascend to the papacy was Urban VI in 1379